

Chapter 12 Fees and Textbooks

Part 1 Student Fees, Deposits, and Charges

53A-12-101 Schools to be free -- Age limitations.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in Title 53A, State System of Public Education, in each school district the public schools shall be free to all children between five and 18 years of age who are residents of the district, and also to persons over 18 who are domiciled in the state of Utah and have not completed high school.
- (2) A person over the age of 18 taking courses under this section must declare an intent to complete requirements for a high school diploma. All courses taken must lead toward that diploma and must be approved by those directly responsible for administering the program.
- (3) A person required to pay tuition under this section may have the tuition waived under Section 53A-15-404.

Enacted by Chapter 2, 1988 General Session

53A-12-102 State policy on student fees, deposits, or other charges.

- (1) For purposes of this part:
 - (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.
 - (b) "Secondary school" means a school that provides instruction to students in grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.
 - (c) "Secondary school student":
 - (i) means a student enrolled in a secondary school; and
 - (ii) includes a student in grade 6 if the student attends a secondary school.
- (2)
 - (a) A secondary school may impose fees on secondary school students.
 - (b) The board shall adopt rules regarding the imposition of fees in secondary schools in accordance with the requirements of this part.
- (3) A fee, deposit, or other charge may not be made, or any expenditure required of a student or the student's parent or guardian, as a condition for student participation in an activity, class, or program provided, sponsored, or supported by or through a public school or school district, unless authorized by the local school board or charter school governing board under rules adopted by the board.
- (4)
 - (a) A fee, deposit, charge, or expenditure may not be required for elementary school activities which are part of the regular school day or for supplies used during the regular school day.
 - (b) An elementary school or elementary school teacher may compile and provide to a student's parent or guardian a suggested list of supplies for use during the regular school day so that a parent or guardian may furnish on a voluntary basis those supplies for student use.
 - (c) A list provided to a student's parent or guardian pursuant to Subsection (4)(b) shall include and be preceded by the following language: "NOTICE: THE ITEMS ON THIS LIST WILL BE USED DURING THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY. THEY MAY BE BROUGHT FROM HOME ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, OTHERWISE, THEY WILL BE FURNISHED BY THE SCHOOL."

Amended by Chapter 258, 2015 General Session

53A-12-103 Waiver of fees.

- (1)
 - (a) A local school board shall require, as part of an authorization granted under Section 53A-12-102, that adequate waivers or other provisions are available to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to participate because of an inability to pay the required fee, deposit, or charge.
 - (b)
 - (i) If, however, a student must repeat a course or requires remediation to advance or graduate and a fee is associated with the course or the remediation program, it is presumed that the student will pay the fee.
 - (ii) If the student or the student's parent or guardian is financially unable to pay the fee, the board shall provide for alternatives to waiving the fee, which may include installment payments and school or community service or work projects for the student.
 - (iii) In cases of extreme financial hardship or where the student has suffered a long-term illness, or death in the family, or other major emergency and where installment payments and the imposition of a service or work requirement would not be reasonable, the student may receive a partial or full waiver of the fee required under Subsection (1)(b)(i).
 - (iv) The waiver provisions in Subsections (2) and (3) apply to all other fees, deposits, and charges made in the secondary schools.
- (2)
 - (a) The board shall require each school in the district that charges a fee under this chapter to provide a variety of alternatives for satisfying the fee requirement to those who qualify for fee waivers, in addition to the outright waiver of the fee.
 - (b) The board shall develop and provide a list of alternatives for the schools, including such options as allowing the student to provide:
 - (i) tutorial assistance to other students;
 - (ii) assistance before or after school to teachers and other school personnel on school related matters; and
 - (iii) general community or home service.
 - (c) Each school may add to the list of alternatives provided by the board, subject to approval by the board.
- (3) A local school board may establish policies providing for partial fee waivers or other alternatives for those students who, because of extenuating circumstances, are not in a financial position to pay the entire fee.
- (4) With regard to children who are in the custody of the Division of Child and Family Services who are also eligible under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act, local school boards shall require fee waivers or alternatives in accordance with Subsections (1) through (3).
- (5) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the State Board of Education shall make rules:
 - (a) requiring a parent or guardian of a student applying for a fee waiver to provide documentation and certification to the school verifying:
 - (i) the student's eligibility to receive the waiver; and
 - (ii) that the alternatives for satisfying the fee requirements under Subsection (2) have been complied with to the fullest extent reasonably possible according to the individual circumstances of both the fee waiver applicant and the school; and

- (b) specifying the acceptable forms of documentation for the requirement under Subsection (5)(a), which shall include verification based on income tax returns or current pay stubs.
- (6) Notwithstanding the requirements under Subsection (5), a school is not required to keep documentation on file after the verification is completed.

Amended by Chapter 382, 2008 General Session

53A-12-104 Notice of student fees and waivers.

A local school board shall annually give written notice of its student fee schedules and fee waiver policies to the parent or guardian of a child who attends a public school within the district.

Enacted by Chapter 2, 1988 General Session

Part 2 Textbooks

53A-12-201 State policy on providing textbooks.

- (1) It is the public policy of this state that public education shall be free.
- (2) A student may not be denied an education because of economic inability to purchase textbooks necessary for advancement in or graduation from the public school system.
- (3) A school board may not sell textbooks or otherwise charge textbook fees or deposits except as provided in Title 53A, State System of Public Education.

Enacted by Chapter 2, 1988 General Session

53A-12-202 "Textbooks" defined.

For the purposes of Sections 53A-12-201 through 53A-12-206, "textbooks" includes textbooks and workbooks necessary for participation in any instructional course. Textbooks shall not include personal or consumable items, such as pencils, papers, pens, erasers, notebooks, other items of personal use, or products which a student may purchase at his option, such as school publications, class rings, annuals, and similar items.

Enacted by Chapter 2, 1988 General Session

53A-12-204 Purchase of textbooks by local school board -- Sales to pupils -- Free textbooks -- Textbooks provided to teachers -- Payment of costs -- Rental of textbooks.

- (1) A local school board, under rules adopted by the State Board of Education, may purchase textbooks for use in the public schools directly from the publisher at prices and terms approved by the state board and may sell those books to pupils in grades nine through 12 at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of the book plus costs of transportation and handling.
- (2) Each local school board, however, shall provide, free of charge, textbooks and workbooks required for courses of instruction for each child attending public schools whose parent or guardian is financially unable to purchase them.
- (3) Children who are receiving cash assistance under Title 35A, Chapter 3, Part 3, Family Employment Program, supplemental security income, or who are in the custody of the Division

of Child and Family Services within the Department of Human Services are eligible for free textbooks and workbooks under this section.

- (4) The local school board shall also purchase all books necessary for teachers to conduct their classes.
- (5) The cost of furnishing textbooks and workbooks may be paid from school operating funds, the textbook fund, or from other available funds.
- (6) Books provided to teachers and pupils without charge or at less than full cost are paid for out of funds of the district and remain the property of the district.
- (7) In school districts that require pupils to rent books instead of purchasing them or providing them free of charge, the local school board shall waive rental fees for a child whose parent or guardian is financially unable to pay the rental fee. The children considered eligible under Subsection (3) are also eligible for the purposes of this Subsection (7).

Amended by Chapter 299, 2002 General Session

53A-12-205 Free textbook system.

- (1) If a local school board considers it desirable or necessary, or if the board is petitioned by two-thirds of those voting in the district, it shall provide free textbooks to all pupils in the schools under its charge.
- (2) Books purchased under this section shall be paid for out of the funds of the district.
- (3) The board shall assure that sufficient funds are raised and set aside for this purpose.
- (4) A board that has adopted the free textbook system shall terminate the system if petitioned by two-thirds of those voting in an election conducted for that purpose vote to terminate the system.
- (5) The board may not act upon a petition to terminate the free textbook system during a period of four years after the system is adopted.
- (6) The board may not reinstitute a free textbook system until four years after its termination.

Enacted by Chapter 2, 1988 General Session

53A-12-206 Repurchase and resale of textbooks.

- (1) If a student moves from a district in which free textbooks were not provided, the school board of that district may purchase the books used by the student at a reasonable price, based upon the original cost and the condition of the book upon return.
- (2) The books purchased by the district under this section may be resold to other students in the district.

Enacted by Chapter 2, 1988 General Session

53A-12-207 Disposal of textbooks.

- (1) For a school year beginning with or after the 2012-13 school year, a local school district may not dispose of textbooks used in its public schools without first notifying all other school districts in the state of its intent to dispose of the textbooks.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to textbooks that have been damaged, mutilated, or worn out.
- (3) The State Board of Education shall develop rules and procedures directing the disposal of textbooks.

Amended by Chapter 305, 2010 General Session

